

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

State Capitol, Room 113
Sacramento, CA

Minutes of Meeting
May 8, 2008

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Cathie Bennett Warner, Chair
Michele Burton, M.P.H.
Wilma Chan
Marvin Kropke
Vicki Marti
Nancy McFadden

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cathy Halverson, Department of Health Care Services
John Fitzpatrick II, Department of Finance

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT**CMAC STAFF PRESENT**

J. Keith Berger, Executive Director
Tacia Carroll
Paul Cerles
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Mark Klobberdanz
Katie Knudson
Becky Swol
Mike Tagupa
Mervin Tamai
Karen Thalhammer

I. Call to Order

The May 8, 2008 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Chair Cathie Bennett Warner. A quorum was present. The Chair welcomed new Commissioner Marvin Kropke, appointed last month by the Assembly Speaker.

II. Approval of Minutes

The April 10, 2008 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Keith Berger, Executive Director, began his report by welcoming CMAC Commissioners and staff to the meeting and by noting that it was nice to be back after he took time off due to illness.

At this time, Mr. Berger also welcomed CMAC's newest Commissioner Marvin Kropke. Mr. Berger noted that he and CMAC staff are pleased to have him on the Commission and look forward to working with him. Commissioner Kropke resides in Pasadena and is currently the Business Manager/Financial Secretary for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 11.

Mr. Berger informed CMAC that representatives from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) were scheduled to be at the April 24, 2008 CMAC meeting to provide an update on the changes in seismic safety requirements for hospitals. A representative from the California Hospital Association (CHA) was also expected to be present and to provide some comments on seismic issues from the industry's perspective.

Since the April 24, 2008 CMAC meeting was cancelled, Mr. Berger explained that staff has been working with the two parties to set a new date for their presentations and comments. The new date scheduled for the presentation will be at CMAC's July 24, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Berger indicated that the Governor's May Revise will be released next week, and that he would like to ask the Departments of Finance (DOF) and Health Care Services (DHCS) if one or both would be willing to provide an overview at our next meeting of the key Medi-Cal issues that are part of that budget update. Both Ms. Halverson, DHCS, and Mr. Fitzpatrick, DOF, agreed to develop and coordinate a brief overview presentation for the May 22, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Berger informed the Commissioners that there are 17 managed care and hospital contracts and amendments before them for review and action in closed session as well as a number of updates and extended discussions regarding current hospital and managed care negotiations and negotiation strategies.

IV. Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Report

Cathy Halverson, DHCS, in response to a question from the Commissioners at a previous meeting, informed CMAC that there has been concern that the Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) process has not been conducted consistently throughout California by various DHCS, Utilization Management Division, offices. Certain procedures and services are subject to authorization by these Medi-Cal field offices before reimbursement can be approved. She noted that the two Southern California field offices with the highest (Los Angeles) and lowest (San Bernardino) denial rates are undergoing review procedures with field office personnel as well as headquarters to review

policies and procedures when handling these requests. Ms. Halverson said that she is hopeful that this review process will begin within a year.

In response to questions asked by Commissioners Marti and Burton, Ms. Halverson informed the Commissioners that there would be a standardization of the TAR review process, including the process by which people are trained, State wide. She noted that the specific impact of the standardization on TAR approvals and denials is not known, but that the goal is to achieve more consistency across the State.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no comments from the public, Chair Bennett Warner recessed the open session. Chair Bennett Warner opened the closed session, and after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair Bennett Warner announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital and managed care contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.